THE EXAMINER.

No. 219 SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1812

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 213.

PRINCELY QUALITIES.

THERE is one singular boast which the PRINCE will be enabled to make at the close of his life,—provided he thinks of boasting at such a time; and that is, that he has enjoyed the rapturous panegyrics of the two rival parties of the state. Whether he enjoyed them *together* indeed, he may not think it necessary to mention; but that he certainly will have had both, to the very height of their enthusiasm, nobody can deny; and I should be glad to know what former British Monarch, let him have been ever so consistent or praiseworthy, can lay claim to this double renown. I need not repeat here the variety of eulogies, which for years past the Foxites have been in the habit of pronouncing upon him,—the generosity which, we were told, was inherent in his mind,—the native grace that belonged to all his actions,—the impossibility, in short, so manifest in his whole life, of his ever conducting himself dishonourably or unworthily. The pages of the *Chronicle* have been full of them time out of mind. Neither will it be of any avail to those gentlemen to tell us that they begin to alter their minds on the subject. It is impossible that such acute men could have been deceived for so long a period:—it is quite inconceivable:—if there are any follies in the Royal Personage, "all the talents" must have discovered all the follies by this time; and as we cannot suppose that men of their exquisite delicacy and exalted patriotism can have been deceiving us all the while, we must conclude that there is a cloud over their intellects at present,—that they have not their usual wits about them,—or at least that they have gazed so long at the sun, that at last they see spots in it.—The panegyrics then, which were so continually repeated by these experienced friends, are now echoed back by the new acquaintances of his ROYAL HIGHNESS; and it really must give us a most exalted idea of his qualities to observe, that the latter have not been in his company more than a few months, before they break out into the very same exclamations which expressed the rapture of their opponents. The *Morning Post* in particular cannot contain the excess of it's emotion:—his ROYAL HIGHNESS's conduct, it assures us, is "noble" and "exalted," is "generous," "disinterested," and "glorious," is "upright," "dignified," "princely," "patriotic,"—nay, is "philosophic" too,—and in short, that I may not transcribe all the fine epithets in the language, it is in one word, "magnanimous."—Sir PHILIP SIDNEY tells us, in his *Defence of Poesie*, that when he was at the German Court, he studied horsemanship of an Italian in the Emperor's service, who was in the habit of passing such eulogies on his favourite animal, that if his pupil had not been something of a logician before hand, he would almost have persuaded him to wish himself a horse. In like manner, I may venture to affirm, that without a similar kind of counteraction, the *Post* would go near to convince me that I ought to wish myself a PRINCE REGENT.—However, as my logic may be wrong, and as it is of the utmost consequence to the people of these realms to have clear ideas of the qualities of their PRINCE, in order that they may know on what to rely, it may be as well to give some little enquiry into the praises here mentioned, and to sum up the great and glorious actions which must have obtained them. That I may be properly systematic then on so great a subject, I shall proceed to sit down the different virtues of the PRINCE under their respective heads, such as "Generosity" for instance,—so many specimens,—a thousand and forty perhaps;—"Patriotism,"—so many specimens;—"Magnanimity,"—so many specimens. It is evident that for a field so ample I must take proper room and use a great quantity of paper, and therefore if the reader should be deprived of his usual variety of subjects,—if he should find nothing in the present *Examiner* under the head of Old Bailey, or something of that sort, it will not be my fault. Upon the same account, I must acquit myself to the young Templars and others for having no Theatricals, to the young ladies for being wanting in elopements and traits of sentiment, and to the old gentlemen, who read me with uplifted spectacles and a candle at arm's length, for not having provided the usual stock of felonious charges and dislocated or scalded limbs. I know they will all excuse me for once:—next week they shall be recompensed:—the whole nation, if they please, shall be full of belles lettres, going to be married, and left for dead upon the spot.

To begin then,—with what words shall I undertake this exploit of my pen?—

> Chi mi darà la voce, e le perole
> Convenienti à si nobil soggetto?

Or as SPENSER translates it:—

> Who now shall give unto me words and sound
> Equall unto this haughty enterprise?
> Or who shall lend me wings, with which from ground
> My lowly verse may loftily arise
> And lift itself into the highest skies?
> More ample spirit than hetherto was wount
> Here needes me, whiles the "*Magnanimities*"
> Of my most dreaded Sovereign I recount,
> By which all earthly Princes "*he*" doth far surmount.

For "Generosity" then, in the first place:—

(Hiatus valde deflendus.)

Why—what—this is very singular! Not a word coming from the pen! Let us try "Patriotism:"—

(Hiatus maxime deflendus.)

What again! Not an idea upon that subject!—For "Magnanimity" then:—

(Hiatus geme bundissime deflendus.)

Why how is this! (Here the Editor in astonishment rubs his eyes, shakes his head, and pinches himself to know whether he is awake, and begins repeating his A B C, to discover whether he has been deprived of his memory.)—It may appear very odd, gentle Reader,—if not unaccountable; but so it was; I rubbed my eyes and my head, pinched myself, and said my letters, and having thus ascertained that I was sound of body and mind, I sat still, I meditated, I gnawed my pen; but in vain;—I turned in my chair, poked the fire, got up, walked about, and looked out of window; but to no purpose;—I then said to myself, "Take time;—don't be in a hurry," and I fairly left my fireside and took a walk out of doors:—"the sight of Nature," said I, "and it's glorious works, will expand my recollections;" but it was all useless:—I even mentally put on a certain air of loftiness, and tried to work myself up to a pitch that would enable me to appreciate the requisite exaltation; I acted the Prince, as it were, in my imagination, sat on a high chair, looked fine, and dipped my pen into a golden inkstand;—but still it would not do;—somehow or other, I was not pleased with myself in that character:—lastly then, I ran over the history of the last fifty years; and so complete was my abstraction, that I was in a hundred points of time and parts of the kingdom at once; I was at motions in Parliament about money, I was at Brighton, I was at Blackheath, I was at Newmarket, I was at Mrs. R.'s, Mrs. C.'s, and Mrs. F.'s,—at my Lady J.'s and my Lady H.'s; I was two hours in company with a hatter and three with a tailor; I was surrounded with duns and blue devils; I was at the payment of sundry pensions to noisy, ill-looking fellows, who the moment they got the money clapped their hands upon their mouths; I was keeping it up till four o'clock in the morning; I sunk under the table, and fell asleep, and then I began dreaming:—the reader knows what strange, incoherent things people will dream,—things as incongruous, for instance, as supposing one's-self to be a beast and a man at one and the same time, or a jackass and Alfred the Great, or a Prince and a box of peppermint:—this was the case with my dreaming; I thought at one minute that I cut the most engaging figure in England, though I was without exaggeration as dirty as a chimney-sweeper;—at another instant, I fancied that I had a wife and no wife; at a third, I was drinking wine, which was raw brandy; and at a fourth, I was looking fierce upon the strength of my huge whiskers, though I was conscious at the very time that I had not a hair on my cheek:—then I suddenly found myself in a splendid room full of company, which I had assembled together, and where I was particularly merry and prepossessing, having just witnessed a most afflicting scene at a relation's:—my left arm, I thought, was at the same time in a sling, and some poor people requesting my charity, I answered, "You see I have no hand":—the sling however fell off, and I recovered my arm, but when the same persons repeated their request, I told them I had not a limb left;—they seemed to think this very odd, and so did I, but I could not help myself:—a multitude of persons then came towards me, whom I recognized for my particular friends, and instantly ordered to be turned out of doors, requesting at the same time that the persons who were most obnoxious both to them and myself would come forward and I would receive them handsomely:—upon this an argument arose between me and my conscience, who I thought was a living being of a very ill-favoured appearance and with a trick of pinching one, that was extremely inconvenient: he told me I ought not to have done so; but after much altercation, I referred him for a convincing argument in my favour to a particular "Book" in my library, with another—an account-book—by the side of it; upon consulting which he gave me a huge thump of the face and said he agreed with me:—the stroke however was so forcible, and set my cheek tingling in such a manner, that I awoke, and discovered that having sunk from reverie into reverie, and fairly gone to sleep, I had at last dropped with my cheek smack against the corner of the chair, and thus produced the sensation that roused me.—"What!" said I, rubbing my eyes, and looking about, "not an anecdote yet! Not a solitary trait of fine character! Not a flash through the darkness of fifty years! Not a single recollection of all this nobleness, uprightness, patriotism, philosophy, and magnanimity!—Not one;—so let us drop the subject.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

Paris, Feb. 23.—Penascola, 13 leagues from Tortosa, has just submitted to Marshal Suchet. This fortress, situated upon the borders of the sea, by which it is almost surrounded, upon an extremely elevated point of land, is between Tortosa and Valencia, and very difficult of access. Marshal Suchet contented himself with watching it, during his operations against Blake's army. After the surrender of Valencia he commenced the siege of it, which presented new obstacles for the engineers to surmount, and fresh glories to be acquired. There now remains no place to be subdued from Tortosa to Alicant, which the Duke of Albufera is preparing to besiege in form: his army is already in motion, and will soon be under the walls of that place, to which the wreck of Blake's army has retired.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, March 2.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

Lord HOLLAND moved the second reading of the Drury-lane Theatre Bill.

The Duke of NORFOLK thought that some further delay ought to be allowed, that the nature and object of the Bill might be more fully investigated. Well-regulated theatres, he had no doubt, were highly proper in all large cities, and contributed not only to the entertainment of the people, but also to the improvement of their morals. He had no objection, therefore, to the measure merely as a Bill for building a Theatre; but there were some points in the present Bill that deserved mature consideration. It might be expedient, in the progress of the Bill through the House, to turn their attention to the state of the metropolis, with regard to its theatres in general, and to consider the foundation and tendency of the monopoly. He should, therefore, propose the postponement of the second reading till to-morrow se'nnight.

Lord HOLLAND stated, that the object of the present Bill was merely to extend the time and enlarge the powers for carrying the design of the former Bill into effect. This was its principle, and he saw no occasion for the delay proposed by his Noble Friend.

The Bill was then read a second time

VENTILATING THE HOUSE.

Lord ERSKINE moved for the appointment of a Committee, to inquire into the best means of ventilating the place in which their Lordships sat, and adverted to the uncomfortable feeling which must be excited, and which he had himself experienced, from the vast number of small holes in the floor. One might catch cold even in a post-chaise in summer, if the chaise were full of small holes.

Lord GRENVILLE had no objection to the Committee merely for the purpose of enquiry, but at the same time said, that the plan recommended by Mr. Davy had not as yet had a fair trial. The House had undoubtedly been rendered more comfortable since that plan had been adopted.

The LORD CHANCELLOR had the greatest respect for Mr. Davy; but if any of their Lordships would come on Wednesday, and sit with him to hear a Scotch cause, with 500 holes under his table, all the philosophers in the world could hardly persuade him that his situation was of a very comfortable nature.

The motion was agreed to.

NOTTINGHAM FRAME-BREAKING PREVENTION BILL.

The Order for their Lordships going into a Committee on this Bill being read,

Earl GROSVENOR, in warm and decided language, expressed his strong disapprobation of the Bill.

The Earl of HARROWBY argued at some length in support of the Bill.

The Earl of CARLISLE thought the measure highly objectionable.

Lord WESTMORELAND could not see that there was any cruelty in the proposed punishment.

Lord GRENVILLE thought the evil of a deeper nature than the Noble Lords were inclined to admit. The great cause was the bad policy which had plunged our manufacturers into distress. The distress and the cause were spreading together. It was now that the effect of the paper issue was making itself felt through the community; and it was impossible in any case to conceive, why the same effects which had extended on an excessive issue of paper, should not be attended with the same evils here as in all other countries. This was a more prominent cause than even the Orders in Council. His Noble Friend (Lord Lauderdale) had imputed the distress to the sudden rise and fall of wages by the sudden demand for manufactures; but even where the wages did not fall, the excessive issue of paper lowered their value. The same money could not purchase the same quantity of provisions; and unless there was a *maximum* on the price of the necessaries of life, the working people must be more and more impoverished, even in the nominal receipt of undiminished wages. The great manufacturers worked for foreign markets; the rise of the price abroad did not keep pace with the rise of the nominal value of the currency at home; and in consequence, they were obliged to tell their workmen that they could not make the prime cost on their materials. The workmen said, and with not less truth, that they could not live by their work; and thus distress came rapidly among the most useful and industrious class of the community. The present system had the direct tendency of exhausting the resorces of the industrious part of the public; this was no new thing to their Lordships; it had been pointed out from the beginning; every step of its progress had been regularly detailed, and it was now making its way with accelerated evil. Was this a thing within penal laws to correct? Were men to be cured of this by the gibbet and the gallows? The Bill might irritate and punish, and inflict miseries dreadful to feeling and humanity; but it would not stop an evil which resulted from the wretchedness into which a dangerous and headlong system had driven the working-people. To justify the infliction of death, there must be no authority but strong necessity. The Statute Book was stained with sanguinary laws; it was a stigma on the character of the country; foreigners looked upon it as such, and appealed to its existence as the standard of our national character. A Noble Lord (Harrowby) spoke of the mildness with which those laws were administered. A philosopher once said, that among the Athenians, to praise the Athenians was extremely easy; but where were we to find the great evidence of a mild and legislative spirit—the prevention? Punishment was the object of our laws. If the question was of the purity of the administration of justice, he must agree that here we were unrivalled—that there is no country in the world—that there never was a country, where the innocent man was so nearly secure of acquittal as here. But as to punishment, he knew of no country in Europe—perhaps he ought to speak of it as before the late dreadful revolution—where so many suffered by sanguinary punishments. It was impossible to conceive any justification for this spirit, except in the confusion and blending of all principles, or the adoption of that horrible principle of making every offence against the law punishable by death. Were we about to write in blood the new code for the new situation in which we were gradually advancing? In this instance we could not punish without frequently committing the most shocking offences against humanity. Crimes of the most different nature were mingled under one punishment; and death was to be equally inflicted for conspiracy and acts for which a school-boy's whipping would be too severe. Men were to be hanged for *damaging* frames. What a word! and how capable of perversion! What was *damaging* a frame? The slightest injury to the slightest part of a complicated machinery was to bring a man in peril of his life. This was enough to throw the body of the manufacturing people into despair. Tell them, that if from folly or malice a man break any part of a machine, he forfeits his life, as much as if he had conspired to destroy the whole machinery of the establishment,—as much as if he had murdered the man at the machine,—and the consequence must be horrid. The wisdom of legislators was employed in pointing out the gradations of crime, and making the return always more easy than the progress; but here,

"Returning were as tedious as go o'er,"

and the moment the workman had touched upon his crime, he had incurred the punishment of its consummation.

Lord LIVERPOOL had not heard any Noble Lord on that side of the House deny that there was distress among the manufacturers, but they had distinctly denied that the distress arose from the Orders in Council: and it was evident that those Orders were blameless, as it had actually happened that the trade had never been more flourishing than since the operation of those Decrees. It had happened that at a late period there had been a sudden excitement to trade,—that it had been followed by a glut of the market; and that, by distress among the workmen. Nothing was more in the course of things: the same events had been continually occurring, sometimes in war, sometimes in

peace. So long as the spirit of speculation existed among traders, and so long as, in this free country, no restraint was put upon any man's use of his money, so long these circumstances must occur from time to time. But the present interposition of Parliament was called for, not by the distresses of the workmen, but from a conspiracy against machinery; which had regularly exhibited itself at all times when machinery had been employed to the disuse of manual labour. They had found penal statutes necessary for the protection of every successive kind of machinery. His Lordship now read a passage from Paley, implying that the intensity of punishment was to be adapted, not to the enormity of the crime, but to the difficulty of preventing it in society. It was on this principle that a man was hung for stealing a sheep or a horse; though in the bare annunciation of the thing, it would seem horrible to hang a man for stealing a sheep.

The question was put, on discharging the Order for going into the Committee, and carried in the negative.

In the Committee several amendments were proposed and agreed to.—Adjourned

Thursday, March 5.

NOTTINGHAM RIOTS.

The Order of the Day having been read for the third reading of the Frame-work Bill,

The Earl of CARLISLE did not mean to say that Ministers might not be justified in proposing this measure, by the information they were in possession of, but that information ought to have been communicated to the House, before their Lordships were called upon to sanction the present Bill.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL said, that it was not intended by the Bill to make a permanent addition to the penal code of the country, but merely to extend for a time to the Stocking and Lace Frames that protection which was given to all other machinery.

The Earl of MOIRA considered the Bill to be a measure calculated to increase the difficulty of detection, and quite ineffective with a view of getting rid of the evil to which it professed to apply a remedy. The mischief was, that this measure would be considered by Ministers as an effectual remedy, and that, in the mean time, the evil would get to a head, pregnant with the most dangerous consequences to the country. The system of corruption and mismanagement which, unfortunately for the country, had for some years been carrying on, must be changed, or else no effectual remedy for those evils could be found. It was to that system, which had usurped the name of Government, that the distresses of the People, from whence arose the evil complained of, were immediately to be traced. Of what use was it legislating with the professed view of remedying the evil, unless they endeavoured to remove the distress which was the cause of it? What effect would this Bill have upon the starving workman who was unable to provide his famishing family with bread, because unable to succeed in the application of his industry? Far wiser would it be to endeavour to bring home the feelings of the lower classes of the people, upon whose right feeling the stability of the Government must depend, and our means of encountering the evils which surround us. It was therefore not by such Bills as the present, but by measures wisely calculated to remove the cause of the evil, arising as it did from the distresses of the People, that the evil could alone be remedied.

The Bill was read a third time and passed, and sent back to the Commons for their concurrence in the Amendments.—Adj.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 2.

MR. WALSH.

Mr. BANKES moved the Order of the Day for Mr. Walsh to appear in his place.

The Serjeant informed the Speaker, who communicated the same to the House, that a medical Gentleman was in attendance on behalf of Mr. Walsh, who was ordered to be called in.

Mr. C. Reynolds, Surgeon and Apothecary, appeared at the Bar, and being asked, if he had lately attended Mr. Walsh in his professional character of a medical man, and if he had any information to give that Mr. Walsh was unable to attend in his place?—Mr. Reynolds stated, that he had been called in to Mr. Walsh on Saturday last, and found him in great irritation of mind; that he had seen him about two hours before the moment he was then speaking, and he was still so unsettled in his mind, that he could not give a coherent answer.—Being asked, if he could name any time by which he thought Mr. Walsh might be able to attend? He answered, that from the whole appearance of his mental and bodily state of health, he thought he might be capable of attending in the course of a fortnight.—Ordered to withdraw.

The SPEAKER said, he felt it to be his duty to inform the House, that Mr. Walsh had transmitted to him a farther letter besides the two he had before mentioned; and in the last letter he says, that though he cannot attend to-day, he does not wish the House to delay proceeding on his business; but hopes the Speaker will read his first two letters to the House, assigning his reasons for not appearing to the first order. Having given the House this information, he should wait to know in what way it would be their pleasure to proceed.

Mr. BANKES and Mr. PERCEVAL said a few words, when it was agreed that Mr. Walsh do attend in his place to-morrow fortnight.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, March 3.

FOREIGNERS.

Lord FOLKSTONE inquired, whether there were not Foreigners among the Commissioners for administering his Majesty's Private Concerns?

Mr. PERCEVAL replied, that there was one Foreigner. The Commissioners were, Mr. Simeon, Colonel Taylor, and Count Munster.

Lord FOLKSTONE then gave notice, that on Tuesday next he would submit a motion on the general subject of employing Foreigners in our service.

MR. WALSH.

The SPEAKER informed the House that he had received a letter from Mr. Walsh, stating that he was now ready to attend in his place; that he might not be equally ready after the lapse of a fortnight; and that he was therefore anxious that there should be as little delay as possible.

Mr. BANKES immediately moved, that the order for Mr. Walsh to attend in his place on Monday se'nnight be discharged, and stand for Thursday next—which was agreed to.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

Mr. BROUGHAM entered upon the subject of the Orders in Council, for the purpose of proving to the House the necessity of inquiry. He said, it was of the utmost importance to understand what the system was which these Orders were to retaliate upon. Bonaparte was a decided and declared enemy to Commerce. When his people complained, they were told by him that he wished to see among his subjects none but soldiers or peasants. This too was proved by the Conscription. But how did our system operate? The reply was, that it had given us all the trade we now possessed. There was no doubt the entries in our Custom-house had been swelled to a great extent; but in consequence of the exports of 1809, upwards of nine millions of the property of our merchants had been confiscated by Bonaparte, who, by opening a few ports, by his own treachery, made that immense sum a part of his own treasure. By what was called the Droits of Admiralty, we had in the course of about eighteen years got upwards of 7,000,000*l.* sterling, which we had taken promiscuously from neutrals and friends; but Bonaparte, by opening a few ports, had at one single stroke taken a much larger sum, a much more immense treasure, not from neutrals and friends, but from those he conceived to be his greatest enemies. Ministers relied, however, on their Custom-house to heal every sore, and balance every account. They would soon find, however, that Petitions were preparing which would loudly and forcibly proclaim the distresses of the people. Let them look at the list of Bankruptcies since the Orders in Council took place, and they would have an

additional proof of their blessed effects. Let them turn their eyes to the astonishing list of Paupers maintained by the people of Liverpool, amounting to between sixteen and seventeen thousand persons, who a few weeks before were only a few hundred; and a few months antecedent to that, none at all. All these miserable and deplorable instances would surely bear him out against the Custom-house returns. The distresses existing in Yorkshire, Warwickshire, Nottinghamshire, and he believed some parts of Scotland, were well known to Ministers: but what were these when compared with the paper which the Vice-President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Rose) had to shew from Mr. Irving's office in the Custom-house? Lord Fitzwilliam, and his son Lord Milton, might have piles of letters from the manufacturers of Yorkshire, painting their distresses in the most glowing terms; but look at what Mr. Irving says: there can be no comparison,—the people don't know their own situation,—those who have become bankrupts have been mistaken as to their circumstances, (*Hear, hear*)—Mr. Irving's column was paramount to them all; the evidence of the Gazettes, the cries of Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, &c. are feeble paper-proofs when compared with the Egis of brass from the column of the Custom-house books!—But what were these returns upon which the Gentleman opposite appeared to rely with so much triumph? He had already adverted to the state of our trade in 1808. He now came to the year 1811; and here he must beg the House to remark, that he was arguing from the Right Hon. Gentleman's own documents, without, by any means, admitting that they gave an accurate idea of the real state of the case. These documents embraced four years, giving the accounts for three quarters in each year ending in October 1811. In 1810, the exports of British produce, had been 27 millions; —in 1811, not 27, but about 16 millions, so that there was a fall of 11 millions; and if the other quarters were to be included, with a fall in proportion, instead of 11 it would be 14 or 15 millions of British produce alone, in official value; for in real value it was 21 millions. This falling off did not look so much like a discrepancy with the Gazette, with the distresses of the country, and the petitions of the manufacturers, as the cheering of these Gentlemen might have led one to imagine. But then, what did they say as to the year 1810? They said, "true it is that there is a fall compared with that year; but then there is no great fall compared with the year 1809." Here again they were contradicted by the documents; for there was only a difference of two millions between these years. The fall, compared with 1810, was eleven millions; compared with 1809, nine millions. Then they went back to 1808; and here he must remark, that if there was a falling off compared with that year, it would prove a falling off compared with the worst year that had existed for a long time,—which he imagined would be sufficiently obvious, when it was recollected, that in the year 1808, there had been a falling off of fifteen millions, compared with 1807. How, then, did the case stand upon the documents? In 1808 the export was 18 millions; in 1811, sixteen millions, as he had already stated. This might, therefore, be considered as almost an unprecedented depression. Mr. B., after some remarks upon the deceptive nature of the Custom-house returns, then entered on the Licence System, which was a relaxation of that of the Orders in Council. The trade under these licences was carried on by Papenburghers, Embdeners, Swedes, Danes, &c. who were all under the power of the enemy. What a nursery of seamen was this for France! Was not this one fact of a nature so alarming as to call for inquiry? The favour shewn to Bonaparte's neutrals was at the expence of America, a power with whom we had no rivalship —from whose prosperity and greatness, we had nothing to apprehend. Yet, instead of resorting to American tonnage and seamen, we threw every advantage into the hands of those who, being under the power of France, had the will to injure us, but wanted the means; and with these means we were now doing our utmost to furnish them.—(*Hear, hear!*)—This Licence System, too, was one of "simulation and dissimulation from beginning to end." These were the words of the Judge who presided at the Court of Admiralty, who executed that most delicate of all duties—deciding on the law of nations between this country and foreign nations. The traffic had been justly described as having been begun with forgery, continued by perjury, and ending in the most enormous frauds.—Mr. Brougham concluded a most excellent speech by calling upon the Government to conciliate America, and not force her into an alliance with France, into a war with England.—He did not say this on account of the distresses of the country. Much as he might feel for national or individual distress, he would be the last man to advise, that, in consequence of such distress, the nation should drop its proud and dignified tone for one of humiliation. (*Hear, hear!*)—But the Americans were not a people with whom it became us, on the score of rivalry or apprehension, to go to war; and our late advantages by sea and land,—our splendid victories and triumphs, would make conciliation on our part eminently gracious, and preclude all possibility of fearful submission. The Hon. Member then moved for a Committee of the House, to take into consideration the State of the Commerce and Manufactures of the Country, particularly with respect to the Licence Trade.

Mr. Rose observed, that even after the able and eloquent speech of that Gentleman, he still felt glad that he had brought forward the subject, as he thought he should be able to give the House a satisfactory explanation on the topics enlarged upon. He admitted the distresses of the country, particularly Birmingham, a town more immediately affected by the Orders in Council; but he could not understand where the Hon. Member procured his facts, when he stated, that the miseries which had happened, wherever they had happened, arose entirely from those Orders in Council. He must beg also to correct a misstatement of that Hon. Gentleman, who had declared, that in 1808 the amount of the exports was less by ten millions than in 1807. Now the fact was directly the reverse.—(Exports to America, said Mr. Brougham)—Oh, to America! Well, he would come to that presently. He must observe, too, that the Hon. Gentleman disagreed with Mr. Irving's accounts when they made against him, though he dwelt on them with much force when they were for him. The Hon. Member had stated, that trade had fallen off in consequence of the Orders in Council. In answer to this he would state, that in the year 1805, the exports amounted to thirty-four millions: that in the following year the amount was the same: that in 1807 the amount was increased to 50 millions, though the next year it fell to 45 millions. Thus for two years the trade went on prosperously after the promulgation of the Orders in Council; for as to the seizures in the Baltic, made by Napoleon, they had no sort of connection with the operation of those Orders, The seizures then made, and which amounted to no more than six or seven millions, instead of nine, as had been stated by the Honourable and Learned Gentleman, were owing to the accidental circumstance of the fleet having been stopped by contrary winds in Hano Bay, during which delay the Continental Decrees were issued, which led to their subsequent condemnation.—But the Honourable and Learned Gentleman had stated, that he did not allude to the general exports, but the exports to America. Some Gentlemen had formerly declared, that our trade with America would be totally annihilated. He (Mr. Rose) had predicted the contrary: and his predictions had been verified. In 1807, the amount of our exports to America had been 14 millions; and in 1808, notwithstanding the existence of some prohibitions, the returns were 15 millions; in 1809, 19 millions; and in 1810, 20,400,000*l.*: so that during the years of the embargo, there was an increase of six millions in our exports to America. That the shipping interest had not been injured, but had increased, he would prove by the usual and regular accounts; from which it appeared, that from 1806 to 1810 inclusive, the shipping had increased by 200,000 tons, and there had been an accession of 14,000 British seamen. He admitted, that the foreign shipping was likewise increased; but there was no other way of carrying on this trade except by the employment of foreign ships: and it was not wise or possible, while a market existed for our manufactures, to suffer them to rot and perish in our warehouses. It had been asked, why where not the Americans employed in this carrying trade? They might be and were employed, but a preference was given, not by Go-

vernment but by merchants, to other foreign ships, as being safer and less liable to suspicion in the Continental ports. If there were no Orders in Council, all the Northern part of Europe would have been shut against us: France would have had as much cotton as she pleased from America, and cotton was an article to which Bonaparte was not so indifferent as had been stated; in fact, while France, with the assistance of America, would have been flourishing, England would have been excluded from the trade of the world. These Orders had prevented such an event. France had said that no ships should go to England. England said, and has enforced it, that no ship should touch at France except what comes from England. As to what had fallen from the Hon. and Learned Gentleman, that some persons had conceived that a war with America would be advantageous to England, he knew not whence such information had been received—he himself had always been of contrary opinion. England had acted on no such principle: her conduct towards America had been kind and conciliatory, while that of France had been directly the reverse.

The debate was continued, in favour of the motion, by Mr. BARING, Mr. CANNING, Mr. WILBERFORCE, and Mr. WHITBREAD; and against it by Mr. STEPHEN, Mr. MARRYATT, and Mr. PERCEVAL, who contended that if a great nation like France should infringe the Law of Nations, break down the old system which proceeded from it, and assume to herself the exercise of rights to which she was not entitled, what other line of proceeding could be adopted but that of retaliation? If it was otherwise, the law of nations could be nothing more than a trap and a snare to that nation which should respect its decrees, and a sword and instrument in the hands of that other nation which should violate it at its pleasure. (*Hear, hear!*) Yet manifest as this position appeared, it was on the denial of it that all opposition to the Orders in Council was founded.

Lord G. L. GOWER thought it right to state, that he had been directed by certain persons in the Staffordshire Potteries, to present a petition against the Orders in Council to the Prince Regent. He had placed it in the hands of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and had written to the individuals who had entrusted him with it on the subject. They disapproved of his parting with it; observing, that had he kept it in his own hands, an opportunity perhaps would have occurred to present it to the Regent. For such an opportunity he had waited in vain, during the last three weeks.

Viscount MILTON said, he was exactly in the same situation with the Noble Lord who had just spoken.

Mr. BROUGHAM briefly replied, and observed that we were not now to press upon the enemy with a fair military view of overcoming him, in prosecuting which we might unluckily be compelled to bear hard upon neutral rights. We were no longer following such a gallant, soldier-like instinct; but attempting with the sordid, trading, pedlar-like desires of retail dealers, to undersell, and force America to help us in underselling, a rival shopkeeper. It became Parliament, he said, to stand forward between the country and the ruinous effects of such a mean and profligate policy as this, and to save us from the last of disasters into which the Regent's Ministers were hurrying us,—a War with America. But was there nothing else to make the House still more anxious to inquire than they might have been a short time ago? Had no other circumstance transpired in the latter part of the debate? Did they bear in mind the statements of his Noble Friend, the Member for Yorkshire, and the Noble Lord, the Member for Staffordshire? It now appeared,—what never yet had been known since England was England, and therefore never could have been suspected on the present occasion,—that while the country labours under distresses quite unparalleled, *the people are denied access to the Prince Regent*, at the foot of whose throne they desire to lay their complaints! There is nothing to be seen in the manufacturing counties but misery,—nothing to be heard but the cries of distress: we meet it in every shape,—bankruptcies, petitions, tumults, combinations, mendicity, and the thousand miseries which cannot be recorded in Gazettes, but not the less touching for being less obtrusive,—the horrors of supplies daily and hourly straitened,—the anxieties of tottering credit; this is a short but unexaggerated picture of the state of the people; and groaning under such a pressure, *they seek the throne of the Prince Regent with their grievances, but they find the avenues to his person barred!* Then it becomes the duty of Parliament to throw its doors open to their oppressed and insulted constituents, and to show them that there is a redress, and at any rate a hearing, to be had in this place, if the Prince should be advised to turn away his ears from their just complaints. This is necessary, because it is the duty of representatives; but it is still more imperative, because it may preserve the tranquillity of the country, at a moment when the Executive Government is madly driving the people to despair, and seeking to convert their complaints into insurrection.—If any man then was desirous of preserving peace with America, he would vote for the Inquiry; and every one who gave such a vote might go to his home, and lie down with the consciousness that he had done his utmost to avert the greatest evil with which the people of England could be menaced.

The House then divided:—For the Motion 144—Against it 216—Majority against the Motion 72.——Adjourned.

Wednesday, March 4.

FLOGGING OF SOLDIERS.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT gave notice, that he wished, in some stage of the Mutiny Act, to move for the introduction of a clause for prohibiting the Flogging of soldiers in the army; and as the Bill stood for to-morrow, when the debate respecting Mr. Walsh was to come on, perhaps it would be more convenient to have it now understood that he should move for his clause at some future stage.

RIGHT OF PETITIONING.

Mr. WHITBREAD, not seeing the Right Hon. Secretary of State in his place, wished to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the reason why no opportunity had been afforded of presenting the Petitions to which allusion had been made in last night's debate to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent? Had the Secretary of State been present, he should have asked him if he had ever made any application to the Regent, or if the Regent had ever spoken to him on the subject, and upon what ground the petitioners were refused access to the Throne?

Mr. PERCEVAL wished the Hon. Gentleman had chosen to put the question to his Right Hon. Friend the Secretary of State, rather than to himself, if he wished to be fully informed on the subject. He believed that the reason why no day had been appointed for receiving the Petitions was, because, unless a special application was made for that purpose, it was usual to wait for the day on which a levee might be held.

Mr. WHITBREAD thought the Right Hon. Gentleman would have dispensed with the pleasantry of that part of his answer, when he wished the question to be put to his Right Honourable Colleague, had he been properly aware that it was the duty of Members of Parliament to be then in their places, and that he could not be accountable for the absence of the Secretary of State.—He wished the Right Hon. Gentleman would have the goodness to ask his Colleague if the knowledge of these Petitions had ever come to the knowledge of his Royal Highness; and if not, how he had presumed not to make a communication instantly to his Royal Master? It was very unfortunate, that, after having been so long told of the infirmities of our aged Sovereign, at the commencement of a new reign, the same scene should be still continued.—Adjourned.

Thursday, March 5.

EXPULSION OF MR. WALSH.

The Order of the Day for the attendance of Mr. Walsh having been read,

Mr. BANKES moved, that the Messenger of the House who had delivered the summons, should be examined to establish the fact.

Mr. Thomas Skelton was accordingly called to the Bar, and on being interrogated by the Speaker, deposed, that yesterday morning, at eleven o'clock, he served the notice upon Mr. Walsh himself.

The SPEAKER—"I should now inform the House, that I

have received this day another letter from Mr. Walsh, in which he states his physical inability to attend in his place, or to face this House on this occasion. He hopes that the House will allow to be read his former letters, in which, to use his own words, "he does not set about to justify, but to palliate, his conduct;" and he concludes with saying, "that whatever may be the pleasure of the House, he hopes they will now proceed to determine upon his case."

Mr. BANKES observed, that in bringing a charge of a most serious nature against a Member of the House, which he wished to be followed up by the severest punishment, he should think himself extremely unfortunate if he where about to suggest the adoption of a precedent by which any innocent man might in future be injured, or by which a door might be opened to a general inquisitorial examination into private transactions.—If the letter from Mr. Walsh to his brother had devolved into his (Mr. Bankes's) hands as a private document, or if he had only learnt what related to the recent disgraceful proceedings merely by indistinct whispers, he should not now have called attention to so disagreeable a subject. He agreed with those who thought that judicial power should be assumed by the House of Commons as seldom as possible, nor was the present the first opportunity that had been afforded him of expressing his opinion, how little suited were its functions for such a purpose. Much less would he wish that questions of individual property, or of general character, should be there discussed, since it ill suited the dignity of the House, that through its means should be afforded to private malevolence to scrutinize every deviation from the strictest rules of moral rectitude; but it was inherent in the House of Commons, and was a part of the constitution of every aggregate body, to preserve its reputation. If the House was proud of the splendid talents of some of its Members, if it felt gratified by the exertions of military prowess by others, or if it owned with satisfaction the dignity it derived from the not less important, though less glaring virtues of integrity and rectitude in others, it was impossible for it not to suffer in an equal proportion, if men whose characters were stained by vice and corruption were still permitted to retain seats in a body, where their peculiar deformity was rendered the more conspicuous *by the general excellence of the whole.* Unless from time to time wholesome remedies were applied to purify it, it was impossible that this main limb of the Constitution could continue healthy and vigorous. It was scarcely necessary for him to deduce instances from ancient history, where this power had been exercised; the extensive and uncontrouled authority exercised by the Censors over the Roman Senate was well known, not only on important occasions, but sometimes with capricious indiscretion. They long endeavoured to check the progress of the swelling tide of luxury and corruption, and long succeeded; at length, however, they were overpowered by the weight of the torrent: the Censorian power was overwhelmed, and when again it rose and endeavoured to reestablish its footing, the efforts were feeble, and the attempt was vain; the flood of luxury and vice expanded itself over the whole empire, and at last extinguished the few remaining sparks of virtue and patriotism which had once blazed forth so conspicuously a glorious example to surrounding nations. The British House of Commons, however, had prudently never permitted this censorian power to be exercised by any other hands than its own, and many examples of its exercise must be present to the minds of those acquainted with its history, which had been re-printed together in the year 1807. Cases of all kinds might here be discovered; but no general, positive, or precise rules appear to have been laid down, and the House exercised its discretion according to the facts of the particular case presented to its consideration. There were expulsions for libels on persons in and out of the House, where the legal acceptation of the word had never been contemplated; and gross immorality and impiety in denying the principles of the Christian Religion had been deemed, in the beginning of the last century, a sufficient reason for thus severely expressing the indignation of the House. He did not mean to enter into the merits of these cases, he only cited them to shew that the Commons have always considered themselves masters of their own proceedings regarding their own Members. The expulsion of Colonel Cawthorn, in 1796, was entirely a new case, and much doubt was entertained of the wisdom and prudence of the proceeding; but among all the precedents there was none of more frequent occurrence, or which had been visited more uniformly by the just punishment of the House, than cases of fraud, and notorious breach of trust in pecuniary transactions, for private and undue emolument. The cases of public were undoubtedly more frequent than those of private fraud; and it was extremely natural that it should be so, since transactions between man and man were seldom brought to light; and until within the last thirty years, Members of Parliament were concerned in the collection of the revenues, in the public expenditure, in the lotteries, and contracts of Government. The principle, however, applied equally to all cases of fraud and breach of trust, when coupled with a most material circumstance,—the notoriety and publicity of the fact. Could it, in the present case, be made more notorious than by a trial at the Old Bailey? It was impossible for the House to profess ignorance of what was known to the whole country. Many instances might be quoted where the House had proceeded on the Reports of Committees, on the suggestions of Members, and sometimes even upon slighter grounds: nay, in some cases it had expelled the Member before trial, merely on presumption, and had afterwards directed his prosecution to be commenced.—With regard to the non-attendance of Mr. Walsh, the Hon. Member wished to say a few words before he concluded. He did not mean to press against him, as any aggravation of his offence, his con-compliance with an order of the House: he should indeed have rather thought it an indication of hardened impudence and confirmed iniquity, if he had presumed to appear to answer to a charge the truth of which he had acknowledged, and he trusted that his future conduct would shew that every virtuous impression had not been effaced from his callous mind.—After recapitulating shortly the grounds on which he supported it, Mr. Bankes concluded by moving, "That Benjamin Walsh, Esq. having been tried at the Old Bailey, in January last, for felony, and convicted thereof, and having received a free pardon by reason of his offence not amounting to felony in the opinion of the Judges, but gross fraud and notorious breach of trust having been proved against him on the said trial, is unworthy and unfit to continue a Member of this House."

On the recommendation of the Speaker, the various documents on this subject were entered as read, after which the question was put.

Sir A. PIGGOTT was satisfied that concurrence in the vote proposed would be establishing a precedent, the consequences of which, though seen only in distant prospect, appeared most dangerous and alarming. He could never be brought to agree that the *mere breach of a private trust* was any sufficient ground for the vindictive proceeding suggested by the motion. This, continued the Hon. and Learned Member, was the only instance stated by the Hon. Gentleman of a private transaction, upon which the House was to proceed. As no judgment was pronounced, the verdict was, in fact, staid. The Judges were of opinion that the facts did not amount to felony; and as Mr. Walsh was indicted for felony, he was, in his opinion, substantially acquitted. That the facts themselves were proved, namely, that he converted certain sums of money to his own use: but they were not feloniously converted; and that was all he contended for.—Was it worth while, for the sake of expelling any Member, to establish such a precedent? No public trust was abused,—no public money was embezzled: it was merely a private transaction; a private trust had been abused,—private confidence had been violated. Where would such practices lead to? Did we mean to purify the House by expelling every Member whose private conduct was not irreproachable? Why, no divorce bill could pass without establishing at their bar the adultery of the individual. Was every Member to be expelled, against whom any one might choose to prefer an accusation touching some private transaction? Yet, to such proceedings would they open the door, if they agreed to vote the expulsion of Mr. W. upon the facts that were before them,

Mr. Bathurst thought the legal knowledge displayed by the Hon. and Learned Gentleman very much misplaced. Mr. Walsh was convicted of moral turpitude, and that was sufficient ground, in his opinion, for expulsion.

Mr. Hume felt encouragement from the able argument of the Right Hon. Gentleman (Sir A. Pigott) to state his hostility to the present motion: it was merely a transaction between two individuals, nor was there any proof that it was against law; the House therefore was, in his opinion, going out of its way to take any cognizance of it. The stating it to be a misappropriation of money entrusted, was laying down a principle that might extend throughout the country: if *misappropriation of money was a crime deserving expulsion, perhaps there were not fifty Members of that House* (a laugh) *who had not, in the strictness of the word, misappropriated money at some time or other*

Sir Francis Burdett said, that he was very far from being a stickler for what were called the privileges of Parliament, but certainly if there was a privilege, or power, in any assembly, less disputable than another, he conceived it to be that of declaring any one of the individuals of which they were composed unworthy of associating amongst them; it was at all events a power, which, when compared with the other extraordinary privileges assumed by Parliament, appeared to him to be, of all others, the least liable to abuse; because if any Member was expelled from any motives of party zeal, or personal persecution, a remedy would be open to him in an appeal to his constituents, who, if they thought differently of his conduct, could unquestionably restore him to his seat. This must be the case if elections were what the Constitution meant they should be, fair and open, and general throughout the country; if the people who paid the taxes really sent to that House the persons whom the Constitution entrusted with the province of levying them, why then there could be no difficulty, because there could be little fear of the people not confirming the sentence of expulsion passed on any gross defaulter, by refusing to re-elect to unworthy a representative; but since the anomaly of private boroughs, since the introduction of persons into that House, who came in professedly to vote at the beck of the borough proprietor, a great difficulty arose:—if one of those persons was expelled, might he not be sent back to the House upon the same or some other borough interest; or if he had purchased a seat in that House and was expelled, could he not, if he had the money, purchase another? The truth was, that if a person so circumstanced thought proper to maintain himself, there would be no remedy. He understood, that, in 1809, the Members of the Stock Exchange had expelled Mr. Walsh for what they termed to be gross and nefarious conduct; now, certainly, if the feelings of the Gentlemen upon Change were so sore at the idea of associating with Mr. Walsh, he did not see why that House, *even constituted as it then was* (*a laugh*), should not be allowed the privilege of removing from themselves, in a similar way, an annoyance of the same kind. There was no doubt, he believed, that Mr. Walsh had purchased the seat he then held in that House. It appeared, in the investigation of his books and accounts before the Commissioners of Bankruptcy, that there was an item of 5000*l.* charged on the assets of Mr. Walsh, on account of his seat in that House; and such odd and whimsical confusion did it produce amongst the Commissioners, that after ineffectual efforts to meet the difficulty, they were obliged to resort to delay to evade it; and soon after Mr. Walsh's debts were paid, the bankruptcy superseded, and the matter heard no more of.—With respect to the proceedings had against Mr. Walsh, they appeared to him to be of a nature the most inconsistent, incongruous, and absurd. There had been a trial and no trial, an offence and no offence, a pardon and no pardon. Mr. Walsh had been indicted for felony, tried and convicted, but the verdict was a false one. How came this? It was found subject to the opinion of the Judges hereafter—a mode of finding, of which, by the bye, the fewer instances that [illegible]; but what sort of law must that be? in [illegible] be, of which the great law ex[illegible]? If the Judges themselves d[illegible] law a mere snare for men, instead of being what it ought to be, a safeguard? This was a topic which, in his mind, called for the most serious consideration. With respect to the pardon—he doubted if it could be properly so called—he had understood that a free pardon must pass under the Great Seal. he was sure that at least, in the present instance, there should have been more publicity. As to the intention of Mr. Walsh, his letter left no room for doubt, though he (Sir F.) knew not how that letter got into public circulation, or by what management at the Post Office it was, in the first instance, secured;—however, he thought there had been full enough made out to convict Mr. Walsh of an abominable fraud; and as guilty of such fraud, he should certainly vote for his expulsion from that House. Before he sat down, he wished to mention one or two cases, which, in his mind, the House ought to have prosecuted with as much, if not more rigour, than the present. The first was that of *Mr. Steele*:—his fraud was of infinitely greater moment than the private transaction in the present instance, and yet there had been no notice taken of it. It appeared upon the report of the Finance Committee, that he was in debt to the public to the amount of 19,000*l.* It might be said that he had paid this money back: this was no alleviation whatever, and the interest was at all events lost to the public.—The next case was that of *Mr. Hunt*. This person had been let go to Portugal, where he could have been easily apprehended, if the Government thought proper. He was now in the Brazils, where they could as easily apprehend him; and yet this defaulter, he understood, was at that moment in the actual receipt of two pensions from this country, to the amount of 1000*l.* a-year.—Another instance was that of *Mr. Mills*, who, for the purpose of cheating his creditors, *bought* a seat in that House. He was at the time a prisoner for debt to an immense amount in the King's Bench: his creditors petitioned the House, and besought them not to interpose their privilege in behalf of a swindling trick to defraud them. The petition was, however, of no avail; Mills was enlarged, and took the opportunity his privilege of Parliament afforded him of escaping to America. There was another case of greater public enormity than either, because much more pregnant with mischievous consequences, and that was the case of *Mr. Pitt* advancing 40,000*l.* of the public money to Messrs. Boyd and Benfield, two of the host of voters at his beck.—The greatness of the individual in that House might have then protected him—he might have been saved, perhaps, by a majority of such votes as he influenced in this way: they had heard of late enough to shew that such influence did exist; for what else could be meant by drawing the distinction between what ought and what was not to be considered as a Cabinet measure?—but of this transaction of Mr. Pitt, he had always entertained the same opinion, and thought it a gross abuse of his public duty under the shameless pretence of supporting the public credit—(*Hear, hear, from the Ministerial Benches!*) If it was for the support of public credit, he could only say that it did not tend to support the credit of that House with the public—(*A laugh, and hear, hear!*) If the Hon. Gentleman opposite (Mr. Hume), who had preceded him in the debate, thought that House to be made of a collection of—he knew not how to name them—if there were any or many such persons in that House, or in the country, that would be with him a tenfold reason why the evil should be stopped before it proceeded to such excess, unless they should go on the principle, that where roguery was so general, it was more prudent to pass it over. This reminded him of that part of the dialogue between Lady Macbeth and the child—her son asks, "and must they all be hanged that swear and lie?" Lady Macbeth replies in the affirmative. "Who must hang them," demands the child. "Why, the honest men." Upon which the child observes, "then the liars and swearers are fools, for there are liars and swearers enough to beat the honest, and hang up them."—(*A laugh!*)

Mr. Herbert and Mr. Abercrombie spoke against the motion.

Mr. Wynne said, that the House had the evidence of the delinquent's letter, which he was much surprised to hear called an extenuation of his offence, as if the mere act of robbing a

friend constituted all the turpitude; and if the money had been taken from Mr. Oldham, there would have been nothing criminal in the proceeding! He was sorry to say, that it was too much the fault of the age to set up the cant of sentiment and humanity against the dictates of sober reason and sound honesty. It was not a punishment on Mr. Walsh, but an act of justice to themselves.

Mr. C. ADAM would support the motion. He should feel great awkwardness in coming in contact with a person of Mr. Walsh's character.

Mr. LAMB opposed the motion.

Mr. WHITBREAD observed, that the vote which he should give that night, would be contrary to the first impressions which he entertained on the present question; and this led him to think that no principle ought to be more strongly inculcated through life, than not to give way to first impressions. When he first heard of the atrocious fraud which had been practised on Sir Thomas Plomer by Mr. Walsh, he felt that indignation which almost every other man in the country then felt, and that he ought to be expelled from the House. But the more he had considered this subject, the more he was convinced that Mr. Walsh ought not to be expelled. It had been said that the object of the House in expelling Mr. Walsh, was vindictive; but in his opinion, if this was their object, he ought not to be expelled, but kept as a Member of Parliament, and made to attend in his place every day. (*Laugh.*) The question to be considered was, what was Mr. Walsh in the eye of the law? He was innocent of the crime of felony. If he was innocent of felony, was he guilty of any other crime? The letter of the Learned Judge, Sir Archibald M'Donald, stated merely, that the fact of the fraudulent design, and the subsequent appropriation, had been proved. But did this amount to what constituted legal guilt? By no means. What was proved did not amount to a crime in the eye of law. He would suppose that no prosecution had ever been set on foot, and that the House had merely got possession of the letter of Mr. Walsh—in that case he would ask, was there any man in the House of Commons, who would have ventured, on such a consideration, to make a motion similar to that made by the Hon. Member (Mr. Bankes) that night? As to the general argument which had been used, that every society must possess a power of expelling obnoxious members, whether on account of immorality, legal guilt, or other causes, he would answer, that other societies frequently acting merely on caprice, were accountable only to themselves, and their proceedings could form no analogy to the proceedings of that House. What the Hon. Baronet said respecting the expulsion of Mr. Walsh from the Stock Exchange, was not an argument for the present expulsion, so much as it was a reflection on the House for not having expelled him long ago. But the expelling a man from one society was no reason why he ought to be expelled from another; otherwise, when the King chose to strike out the name of a Member of the House from the Privy Council, it would be a sufficient ground for his expulsion also from this place. The case of the Charitable Corporation was, in his opinion, no precedent. He would conclude with an observation which was made in the course of the debate on that case, that the honour of the House was as much concerned in proceeding with regularity against a rogue, as in not sitting with a rogue. He was therefore for proceeding regularly against Mr. Walsh.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL agreed with those who thought that the case of Mr. Walsh ought to be taken as if there was an acquittal. The facts charged were proved; but the Judges were unanimous that they did not constitute felony. He could see no act, in a moral point of view, more heinous than that of Mr. Walsh. He was not like the Trustee, whom, without meaning to justify, he thought might sometimes be led, from particular circumstances, to make an improper use of the funds entrusted to him, with the intention of afterwards replacing them; but he had formed a deliberate plan,—he had looked coolly round to see whom he might plunder. He compared the respective facilities; he was inclined to make the depredation on one whom he thought the public feeling would consider as not so much entitled to complain as another; but finding this impracticable, he resorted at last to his old protector, for no other reason but because he wanted the money, and because he thought Sir Thomas Plomer did not so much want it. Such an instance of cool and deliberate villainy could hardly well be exceeded. He should give his vote for the motion.

Mr. ELLIOT said, there was no privilege which the House ought to be more scrupulous in pursuing than that of expulsion. The House ought to consider Mr. Walsh as an innocent man in the eye of the law. The question then was, were they to inquire into the moral conduct of men? For his part, he was not prepared to launch into an ocean without bounds.

Mr. HAWKINS BROWNE declared himself in favour of the motion.

Mr. PERCEVAL could not consent to give a silent vote on the present occasion. The question was, whether a person not guilty of felony, but proved to have committed gross fraud, was a person who ought to be continued a Member of that House? No doubt there was great difficulty in drawing a line between such cases as ought to be visited by expulsion, and such as ought not. He would, however, deny the axiom, that because this moral guilt committed by Mr. Walsh was not made punishable by any Act of Parliament, however infamous, the House were to shut their eyes to it. There could be no danger of this precedent being abused by any party of the House, because it must be distinct moral guilt brought home to the Member proposed to be expelled. The Right Hon. Gentleman took notice of the allusion which had been made to the sum in the Estimates stated to Mr. Hunt's name; and said that his name had merely been allowed to remain from the difficulty of procuring an Order in Council for the alteration; but a vote had been entered on this year's estimate, stating, that no part of the money was to be applied to other than public purposes.

The House then divided:—For the motion 101—Against it 16—Majority 85.

Mr. WHITBREAD seeing a Right Hon. Gentleman in his place (Mr. Ryder), took the liberty of asking of that Right Hon. Gentleman, if he had communicated to the Prince Regent that a Noble Lord, a Member of that House, had in his custody a Petition signed by several thousands of the Staffordshire Potters, &c. against the Orders in Council?

Mr. RYDER said, he had communicated to the Noble Lord by whom the Petition had originally been entrusted to him, the cause of the delay which had taken place in presenting the Petition in question, which was, that it was unusual to present such Petition, unless when a Levee was to be held.

Mr. WHITBREAD said, he thought he had the other night mentioned this subject, so that it might have been in the power of the Right Hon. Gentleman to have noticed this circumstance.

Mr. RYDER was not aware that any further communication was required from him.—Adjourned.

Friday, March 6.

MUTINY BILL—MILITARY FLOGGING.

The House went into a Committee on the Mutiny Bill, when

Mr. WHITBREAD observed, that schools had been established in the Army, in order to qualify the soldiers for Non-commissioned Officers. He had understood that Officers could compel the attendance of the soldiers at such schools; but a Learned Judge had declared such compulsion illegal, and consequently, a soldier refusing to attend was not guilty of any offence. As these schools were maintained at a considerable expence, he thought that the Officers should be allowed to enforce attendance.

Lord PALMERSTONE said, that to attend schools was not considered a military duty; it was wholly optional with the soldiers, who generally were glad to avail themselves of the opportunity.

Mr. BROUGHAM wished to know whether it was intended to introduce a clause doing away Military Flogging?

Lord PALMERSTONE said it was not; but the late regulation leaving the option of imprisonment to Courts Martial would be rendered more general.

Mr. BROUGHAM again entered his protest against this species of Torture, which only debased and ruined the soldier. He also disapproved of the encreased employment of Foreigners in the

Army, and remarked that the 10th Dragoons were in a course to be changed into a German Regiment.

Mr. M. SUTTON was happy to state, that from Jan. to Dec. 1811, only eight persons were sentenced to corporal punishments, and on one alone was the punishment inflicted; and even that man had the option given him of general service, which he refused. Such was the Torture complained of by the Hon. Gentleman, that the individual submitted to receive 700 lashes rather than make the exchange. Imprisonment could not be substituted on Foreign Service, and to inflict death would make the Military Code too sanguinary. He lamented to hear these attacks repeated on a system which could not be dispensed with.

Mr. BROUGHAM remarked, that, as to his Hon. Friend's lamentation, he consoled himself with the admitted fact, that since these discussions only eight persons had been sentenced to be flogged. The discussion had begun out of doors; and he could not but regret that Mr. Cobbett and Mr. Drakard, who had commenced it, should now be suffering in prison.

Mr. M. SUTTON thought it hard that the improvements should be ascribed to Mr. Cobbett and Mr. Drakard, and not to the Courts Martial, who wished as well to the service as either of those Gentlemen.

Sir G. WARRENDER was sure the amendments were owing to the Courts Martial, and not to Messrs. Cobbett and Drakard.

After some further conversation, the Report was ordered for Monday.

FINANCE.

The House having gone into a Committee of Finance,

Mr. PERCEVAL moved, "That the sum of 6,789,625*l.* be raised by Annuities, in aid of the Supply granted to his Majesty."—Agreed to.—Adjourned to Monday.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. and R. Roberts, Wood-street, Spital-fields, silk-manufacturers.

BANKRUPTS.

C. Fairbone, New-street, Fetter-lane, mathematical-instrument-maker.
J. Cliff, Aston, Cheshire, linen-draper.
A. Arnold, Cateaton-street, warehouseman.
E. O'Neil, Liverpool, cooper.
F. Coates and J. Walker, Cheetham, Manchester, brewers.
S. Williams, Greenwich, tobacconist.
M. Stothard, St. James, Gloucestershire, merchant.
M. Nash, Harlington, Bedfordshire, grocer.
R. Brondbent, Manchester, victualler.
T. Cood, Northumberland-street, merchant.
S. and J. G. Baines, Bradford, Wilts, bakers.
J. Buckley, Halifax, linen-draper.
S. Kettle, Liverpool, timber merchant.
R. Cook, Devizes, plumber.
J. E. Grob, College-hill, sugar-refiner.
W. Dodsworth, Scarborough, grocer.
J. Bryant and C. Catchpool, Ipswich, maltsters.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Downing-street, March 7.

A Dispatch, of which the following is an Extract, has been this day received at the Earl of Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by General the Earl of Wellington, dated Frenada, February 19, 1812.

Since I addressed your Lordship on the 12th instant, I have received intelligence that the First and Fourth Divisions of the Army of Portugal, and part of General Montbrun's Cavalry, as well as the Sixth Division, are on the Tagus, in the neighbourhood of Talavera de Reyna, and Toledo. It is certain that General Bonet evacuated the Asturias at the time I received the reports that he had done so in January; and I understand that he suffered considerably in this operation, as well from the effects of the weather as from the operations of a detachment of the army of Gallicia, and of General Porlier's troops.

No movement of importance has been made by any of the troops composing the army of Portugal since I addressed your Lordship on the 12th instant.

The Guerilla parties continue to increase, and their operations become every day more important: Saomil has lately intercepted the communications of the army of Portugal in Upper Castille; near Medina del Campo, and he took about 100 prisoners in that town; and the party of Cuesta attacked a body of French infantry which crossed the Tietar, and obliged them to retire with considerable loss.—I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

[This Gazette contains also a letter from Capt. Richardson, of the Semiramis, detailing the capture of the Grand Jean Bart privateer, of St. Maloes, mounting 14 guns, and 106 men. She is a fine brig, quite new, copper-bottomed; on her second cruise; was chased several times by our frigates, whom she outsailed; and, confident of her superiority in sailing, allowed the Semiramis to approach so near, that cutting away his anchors, and heaving overboard his boats, &c. could not save him.]

BANKRUPTS.

M. Conner, Liverpool, trunk-maker.
W. Wright, Tewkesbury, Gloucester, linen-draper.
A. Pindar, Bexhill, Sussex, shopkeeper.
W. Thorp, Coventry, ribbon-manufacturer.
E. Hillman, Clutton, Somerset, baker.
T. Smith, Adminton, Gloucester, dealer and chapman.
R. Brook, Almondbury, York, carpenter.
B. Preece, Grafton-street, Soho, haberdasher.
J. Tarling, West Smithfield, hay salesman.
J. G. Tietkens, Warnford-court, Throgmorton-street, merchant.
G. Payne, Piccadilly, hosier.
J. Glover, St. Mary-at-Hill, London, builder.
J. Cockell, Ratcliffe-highway, haberdasher.
W. P. Needham, Louth, Lincoln, merchant.
U. Munckton, Curry-Rival, Somerset, baker.
J. Shelton, Mitcham, Surrey, mealman.
W. Woodman, Bartholomew-close, drug-grinder.
J. Jacobs, King James Stairs, Wapping, dealer and chapman.
T. Gould, Ottery St. Mary, Devon, dealer and chapman.
R. Harrison, Manchester, linen-draper.
J. Hepple, New Castle-upon-Tyne, merchant.
T. Dixon, Sandwich, Kent, ironmonger.
T. Hampton and E. Hooper, Rhayador, Radnor, bankers.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

3 per Cent. Cons. . . .60$\frac{1}{2}\frac{5}{8}$—Consols for Acc.····60$\frac{3}{4}$

Mr. E. of Worcester, will receive a parcel in the course of ten days or a fortnight, containing the Index and other things.

FINE ARTS, and several Communications, next week.

The TITLE-PAGE, PREFACE, and INDEX, are now ready for delivery; as is also the last Year's Volume of the *Examiner*, in boards, price two guineas.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, MARCH 8.

THE only piece of news worth mentioning, that has arrived during the week, is the confirmation of the violent proceedings of the French in Pomerania. They have not only

levied contributions in that province in direct contempt of the counter-orders of the native government to it's subjects, but actual possession has been taken of Stralsund and the Imperial flag hoisted on it's walls over the Swedish. The way in which all this is imagined is quite in the French style. It appears by the official report of the Governor of Stralsund that when he was displaced by the French General FRIANT, he had used the term "prisoner of war" in speaking of himself, upon which the other politely contradicted him, and defined him to be not a " prisoner of war," that is to say, not a person under the controul of force, but a person who was under the " obligation of remaining inactive," (l'obligation d'etre inactif.—)—What was mentioned some time ago in this paper as a likely supposition, begins now to be considered probable enough,—that BERNADOTTE is not a party to those proceedings of NAPOLEON. Unconditional vassalage is well enough to imagine between such a master as NAPOLEON and such slaves as his brother JEROME or FERDINAND of Spain; but a soldier and high spirit like BERNADOTTE has designs and feelings of his own to consult; and we know both from history and from human nature that the aiders and abettors of a man's ambition may become the most jealous and obnoxious of his rivals. BONAPARTE need not remove his best Officers at a distance out of mere gratitude; nor yet expect that they will serve him as if he were present, on the same score.

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Dispatches, dated the 12th ult. were yesterday received from Lord WELLINGTON. No event of any importance, it is said, had taken place up to that time.—And yesterday Lisbon Papers were received, but they are very uninteresting.

Lord MELVILLE is to succeed Mr. YORKE as First Lord of the Admiralty. Lord BUCKINGHAMSHIRE will probably replace Lord MELVILLE at the Board of Controul.—*Courier.*

A letter has been received from a respectable gentleman just returned to the West Indies, by which we are grieved to hear that a slave ship was fallen in with on the passage, which had left the coast of Africa with 300 slaves, ten of whom had died: three of the whites had also died; the Captain was ill, the whole appearance of the vessel was miserable, and she was in so leaky a state, that it was thought she could hardly reach land. The Captain, pretending to be a Spaniard, bound to Cuba, hoisted Spanish colours, but as he spoke English so well, there was every reason to believe he was an Englishman, or an American, and was going to smuggle the slaves into some American port. When the Mate went on board the slave ship, two of the poor negroes, supposing he was come to release them, lifted up their shackled hands, and exclaimed,—" O King George! King George!" The ship, we regret to hear, was not captured, but suffered to proceed with her miserable and unlawful cargo, either to perish in the waves, or to be sold in the market like beasts.

FINANCE.—On Wednesday, Mr. HASE read at the Stock Exchange the following proposal from the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, for raising 6,789,625*l.* by Navy five per Cent. Annuities, in addition to the sum of 5,431,700*l.* subscribed in Exchequer Bills, to be funded in the month of February last; making together 12,221,325*l.* which is the whole sum proposed to be funded in five per Cent. Stock during the present year:—Every Subscriber of the Exchequer Bills funded as above-mentioned, is to be entitled to contribute a further sum, at the rate of 125*l.* for every 100*l.* contributed, 108*l.* in five per Cent. Stock, to be added to the Stock created by the above subscription, and to bear interest from the 5th January 1812. A discount to be allowed of four per cent. on the whole money advanced beyond the instalments, in the usual manner. Exchequer Bills dated between the 1st March 1811, and 14th February 1812, both inclusive, with the interest due thereon, will be received in payment of the contribution. A book will be opened at the Bank for receiving the subscriptions of those who may chuse to avail themselves of the option; and it will remain open to the 16th of the present month. If the parties to whom the offer is hereby given do not subscribe the whole sum of 6,789,625*l.* it is to be understood that the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER will be at liberty to come to the public at large or to raise such sum as may be wanting to complete the said sum of 6,789,625*l.* in any other manner.

After the recent Revolution in Sicily,—a Revolution evidently compelled by British arms,—let no courtier talk of BONAPARTE's jacobinical overthrowing of " Established Governments."—When Ministers have been charged with aiding oppressive Governments and not the people, they have always urged the impropriety of meddling with the " established order of things," Now, however, they have deposed both an Ally and a Monarch; though it does not seem that they have benefitted the people.

CAUTION TO FEMALES.—On Sunday evening departed this life, after enduring seven weeks' unparalleled sufferings, Miss HANNAH RHODES, aged 17 years, daughter of the Rev. B. RHODES, of Margate, occasioned by her clothes catching fire, which burnt her so dreadfully in every part of her body, that it terminated in a mortification. To describe the excruciating tortures which she endured during her seven weeks' suffering, is more readily conceived than expressed.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 110.

LYCEUM.

The new drama produced at this Theatre, called the *House of Morville*, is said in the play-bills to have been written " in humble imitation of the style and sentiments of the old English dramatists," and it answers well enough to it's professions: it is an " imitation" of them, and an " humble" one; but though far from coming up to it's originals, it deserves more notice in it's humility than the grinning and vacant pretensions of our every-day scribblers. The scene is laid in England, at apparently an early period of it's history; and the plot and characters are at first sight of a very old description. *Lord Rodmund* (RAYMOND) is in the ill-gotten possession of the estates of young *Morville* (DE CAMP) whose father is supposed to be dead and to have left them away from him on account of some youthful excesses. The young man, oppressed with debt and misfortune, seeing no way of supporting his wife, and believing himself under the malediction of his father, becomes almost distracted on visiting the scene of his early days; he leaves it in order to pour out his sorrows over his father's tomb; and approaching the cemetery where he supposes it to be, is forbidden the spot by a voice which

intimates that the old man had been murdered, and by the very person who is now in possession of his wealth.—Wound up to a pitch of agony, he returns to the mansion-house, and rushing into the presence of *Lord Rodmund*, proclaims him a murderer before his friends, but after throwing his enemy into great agitation, suddenly recollects that he has not sufficient proof to establish his charge upon the spot, and therefore goes madly forth again to discover it. *Lord Rodmund*, however, doubly anxious to get rid of so troublesome an intruder, takes advantage of his debts to bring the pursuit of the law upon him, and ultimately finding that his misfortunes have driven him to enlist, contrives to get him under the tyranny of a Creature of his (PALMER) to whom he had given a commission. The Officer accordingly does his best to tease and gall him into insubordination, and in spite of the other's self-restraint succeeds so well or so unluckily, that at last, having added to blows the villainy of making love to his wife (Mrs. EDWIN) he is forced into a combat with him and killed. *Young Morville* is now compelled to become a skulking fugitive, and having distractedly parted from his wife, the latter is rescued from perishing in the streets by an old gentleman, who is no less a person than *Sir Thomas Morville*, the father, but is unacquainted with her face; he is at this time living at a country mansion under another name and a sort of disguise, having been directed so to do by a Hermit, a friend of his (Mr. HOLLAND) who knows all the circumstances of the parties, and had acted the supernatural voice at the cemetery. At this point of time she is recognized by an uncle of her's, who has just arrived from abroad, and who sets out with her in search of her husband, without any explanation, it seems, having taken place respecting the other relationships. Hearing a clash of arms in a wood, the Uncle leaves her in order to enquire into it, and lighting upon a wounded friend with a young man standing over him, concludes that the latter is an assassin, whereas it is one who has rescued him from a banditti, and no other than *Young Morville* himself, though his name is not discovered, till *Mrs. Morville* at sight of her husband rushes towards him. The Uncle, however, still supposes him guilty; and we are now conducted to the last scene, which is the solemn trial of the supposed offender, for the murder of his officer, before *Lord Rodmund* himself, who, notwithstanding the explanations presented in Court, is hastening to sentence him to death, when his Lordship's creatures appear against him, and his villainies are unmasked; the unknown *Sir James*, whom he had attempted to poison, and thought he had poisoned, ascends the judgment seat in his stead as true Magistrate of the district, and after the usual astonishments and congratulations, the piece concludes with the restored happiness of the *House of Morville*.

The reader will see much in this story that is of a common-place cast, and he will find as much in the sentiments and language; neither indeed will he miss what he is pretty certain to discover in the dramatic productions of these times—an occasional want of good English, and an air of uneducated lameness in the general management of the composition. But still there is in this *House of Morville*, with all its defects, one valuable feature, of which no traces are discernible in the general drama of the day; there is some appearance of *reflection* in it; the author does not always utter phrases that are in every body's mouth, nor content himself with pouring forth mere words; he handles an idea now and then with something like a tact; he analyses it, and tells us the result of his analysis: in a word, he is not destitute of *thinking*: and here is seen at once the difference of imitating those who do not think, and those who do. Had he taken the living dramatists for his model, he would have had nothing to do but to skim over a surface of nothings,—to repeat to us the cant of the day,—to be humourous by means of a suit of clothes, and to trust for success to an actor's grinning, or to some parrot character, who, as JOHNSON said of a person, "has but one idea, and that a wrong one;" but in resorting to the old dramatists, the first thing that struck him as requisite to their imitation, was to *think*,—to be conscious of a mind,—to pierce beyond surfaces and appendages, and shew us human minds in action, not mere human creatures in motion. The consequence was, that in spite of lame composition, of an ill-managed plot, and of a great quantity of common-place, which seems to have always intruded when he had not his originals directly before him,—in spite too of an antiquated language which appeared ridiculous to the audience, the piece before us took strong hold of their attention. Nor was it destitute even of original character, comparatively speaking;—the tyrannical hireling of an Officer, who goads his inferior to distraction by continual and malicious exactions upon his patience, is a just and natural portrait, taken out of the existing and lasting exhibitions of life; and here again the author imitated the old dramatists in looking about for himself among his fellow-creatures, and having an eye to the real world, not in it's external but it's internal follies and sophistications.—To select such models of imitation is in itself a considerable praise; and to use them as the author has done, without possessing, as I am told, the advantages of previous education and habits of taste, is still more. If he is advanced in life, he will probably obtain little further repute; but if he is young, or of such an age as to improve by what he reads, he may be of considerable service to the cause of the drama in assisting to give similar direction to the studies of others. The old dramatists are a treasure of sterling English,—an intellectual heap of things,—a fiery abundance of informing spirit. If they have any fault, indeed, more than another, it is that of thinking too much,—or, if that is a wrong phrase, of giving you the idea of brains continually at work to an activity that amounts to a spiritual sort of punishment;—but they wrote in an age when it was the fashion to crowd every sentence with meaning, and a glorious fashion it was, though dangerous to a want of taste or to mere affectation. Taste, however, is now to be had in common; and after the COBBS, DIBDINS, and REYNOLDSES, nobody will quarrel, I believe, with those who should give us a little too much in the article of intelligence.

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THE OPERA.

PANTHEON.

SIR,—After repeated promises and repeated disappointments, the Pantheon has at last opened its doors to the public. Difficulties in every shape appear to have assailed it; want of license and want of money have several times threatened overthrow; but its persevering Proprietors have ultimately triumphed over all impediments, and opened their building, which, in spite of the bad taste displayed in its gaudy and patch work decorations, does much credit to

their exertions, for the rapidity with which it has been completed. How far their endeavours will succeed is at present doubtful, for two Opera Houses are more than even fashion can require; and the probable result of competition will be the injury of both. The Manager of the King's Theatre will, however, have little reason to complain; exulting in his monopoly, he has long defied the public, and, therefore, cannot now reasonably lay any claim to their compassion. Still his Theatre possesses advantages which render it likely to outlive its new-born antagonist; it is by far the most magnificent and commodious house; the Performers of every kind are better, and the band completely eclipses its competitor. Indeed, it will be in vain to look for much entertainment at the Pantheon, until great reformations are made in the orchestra, which is at present lamentably defective, particularly in the wind instruments, the strange tones of which are highly ludicrous. The nasal screech of the oboe, the cracked and trepulous buzzing of the bassoons, and the din of the trumpets and serpents, are better suited for the stunning confusion of a fair than for the band of a theatre, whose music is almost its only attraction; for the singers, with the exception of Madame Bertinotti, have little merit to boast of, and the dancers are chiefly such as exert themselves more for our annoyance than our amusement. What is wanting in excellence has, however, been made up by numbers; for not less than thirty-two figure dancers are engaged, and, in addition, thirty children have been ostentatiously announced! By this we may see that Colonel Greville has not yet lost that infantine taste which formerly led him to open an Academic Theatre, where infants were instructed in the vices of maturer age, and which lately induced him to announce himself the possessor of a license for juvenile performances.

The pieces with which the Theatre has opened are two burlettas and two dances. The first burletta, *Il Venditor d'Aceto,—The Vinegar Vender*, is a heavy and wearisome piece, and drags along to its conclusion, unenlivened by good acting, singing, or music. The second, which is founded on the same ridiculous story as the English farce of the *Devil to Pay*, whose title Italianized it bears, *Il Diavolo a Quattro*, has better claims to notice, on account of the music of Portogallo, which is extremely pleasing, although of quite a different nature to his former Operas, which, by their abstractedness and want of melody, appeared to be the productions of study rather than of genius; but in the present Burletta, Portogallo has thrown aside all the gloom and profundity that formerly characterised him, and skipped and played about with a degree of animation that could scarcely be expected from the same composer.

The first of the Dances is called *I Giardinierie,—the Gardeners,*—and consists of a festive meeting of persons of that profession, both male and female, who, finding their toils insufficient to fatigue them, exercise themselves more violently in jumping and twirling about a garden, till, tired with their sport, they adjourn to a drawing-room, where they are received by a number of condescending ladies and gentlemen, who further incite them to exertion by mingling in their amusement. The second Dance has the lofty name of *Mount Parnassus,—Il Monte Parnasso,*—and brings before us Apollo and the Muses, with a tribe of Cupids, who merely caper about as the Gardeners had done before, till they and the audience are pretty well fatigued, when they wisely withdraw.—Unaided as these performances are by good dancing or music, it may be easy to form an idea of the entertainment they are capable of affording.

H. R.

MR. SHERIDAN AND MR. LOCKHART.

29, *Charing-Cross, March* 3, 1819.

Sir,—Having seen a statement in your Paper of Sunday last, in which it is asserted that Mr. Sheridan spoke *in favour* of, and Mr. Lockhart *against*, Mr. Banks's motion, relative to the Paymaster of Widows' Pensions, on Monday the 24th ult., I think it a duty to both those Gentlemen and the Public, to request you will please, in a succeeding number, to contradict the above assertion, as it is in my power to state, from having attended the House that evening, that the contrary is the truth;—Mr. *L.* voted *for*, and Mr. *S. against*, the said Motion.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant and Constant Reader.

[It was the Report of a Daily Morning Paper which caused the error in the *Examiner*. Mr. Sheridan,—the Whig, the friend of Mr. Fox and of the People, did indeed vote in favour of the Sinecure!]

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

MEDICAL BULLETIN.

"*Windsor Castle, Feb.* 29.

"His Majesty continues nearly in the same state. (The Bulletin will in future be issued from Windsor the last Saturday in the month, and shewn at St. James's Palace on the following day.")

COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

"The public have heard with satisfaction, that Mr. Perceval and Lord Eldon have convinced an illustrious Personage, that all which they did in the affair of 'a delicate investigation' was prompted by their zeal in the service of *injured innocence*, and that a favourable prospect opens of the speedy return of the Lady to her home and station.—This is a consummation devoutly to be wished."—*Morning Chronicle.*

The Marquis of Hertford has been appointed Lord Chamberlain, and Earl Cholmondeley Lord Steward, of the Regent's Household.

The Marquis of Hertford has appointed his Nephew, Colonel Seymour, to be Serjeant at Arms.

Miss Morrell's friends having raised a subscription to purchase her an annuity, the produce of her Concert next Thursday, at Hanover-square-Rooms, is to be applied in addition to that fund. Miss Morrell is totally blind, and it is to be hoped that she will thus be relieved from the sad necessity of depending for support wholly on the precarious emoluments of an annual concert.

LETTER FROM ——— TO ———.

At length, dearest Freddy, the moment is nigh,
When, with P—rc—v—l's leave, I may throw my chains by;
And, as time now is precious, the first thing I do,
Is to sit down and write a wise letter to you.
I meant before now to have sent you this Letter,
But Y—rm—th and I thought perhaps 'twould be better
To wait till the Irish affairs were decided—
That is, till both Houses had prosed and divided,
With all due appearance of thought and digestion—
For, tho' H—rtf—rd House had long settled the question,
I thought it but decent, between me and you,
That the two *other* Houses should settle it too.

I need not remind you how cursedly bad
Our affairs were all looking, when Father went ***;
A ****** ********* on him and restrictions on me,
A more *limited* Monarchy could not well be.
I was call'd upon then, in that moment of puzzle,
To chuse my own Minister—just as they muzzle
A playful young bear, and then mock his disaster,
By bidding him chuse out his own dancing master.

T[illegible]ght the best way, as a dutiful son,
Was to do as Old Royalty's self would have done.
So I sent word to say, I would keep the whole batch in,
The same chest of tools, without cleansing or patching;
For tools of this kind, like Martinus's sconce,*
Would lose all their beauty, if purified once;
And think—only think—if our Father should find,
Upon graciously coming again to his mind,
That improvement had spoil'd any favourite adviser—
That R—se was grown honest, or W—stm—rel—nd wiser—
That R—d—r was, e'en by one twinkle, the brighter—
Or L—v—rp—l's speeches but half a pound lighter—
What a shock to his old Royal heart would it be!
No!—far were such dreams of improvement from me:
And it pleased me to find, at the House, where, you know,
There's such good mutton cutlets and strong curaçoa,†
That the Marchioness call'd me a duteous old boy,
And my Y—rm—th's red whiskers grew redder for joy!

You know, my dear Freddy, how oft, if I *would*,
By the law of last Sessions, I *might* have done good.
I *might* have withheld these political noodles
From knocking their heads against hot Yankee Doodles;
I *might* have told Ireland I pitied her lot,
Might have sooth'd her with hope—but you know I did not.
And my wish is, in truth, that the best of old fellows
Should not, on recovering, have cause to be jealous,
But find that, while he has been laid on the shelf,
We've been all of us nearly as *** as himself;
You smile at my hopes—but the Doctors and I
Are the last that can think the K—*ng ever* will die!

A new era's arriv'd—tho' you'd hardly believe it—
And all things, of course, must be new to receive it.
New villas, new fêtes (which ev'n Waithman attends)—
New saddles, new helmets, and—why not *new friends?*
I repeat it, "New Friends"—for I cannot describe
The delight I am in with this P—rc—v—l tribe.
Such capering!—Such vapouring!—Such rigour!—Such vigour!
North, South, East, and West, they have cut such a figure,
That soon they will bring the whole world round our ears!
And leave us no friends—but Old Nick and Algiers.
When I think of the glory they've beam'd on my chains,
'Tis enough quite to turn my illustrious brains!
It is true, we are bankrupts in commerce and riches,
But think how we furnish our Allies with breeches!
We've lost the warm hearts of the Irish, 'tis granted,
But then we've got Java, an island much wanted,
To put the last lingering few who remain,
Of the Walcheren warriors, out of their pain.
Then how Wellington fights! and how squabbles his brother!
For Papists the one, and *with* Papists the other;
One crushing Napoleon by taking a City,
While t'other lays waste a whole Cath'lic Committee!
Oh deeds of renown!—shall I boggle or flinch,
With such prospects before me? by Jove, not an inch.
No—let *England's* affairs go to rack, if they will,
We'll look after th' affairs of the *Continent* still,
And, with nothing at home but starvation and riot,
Find Lisbon in bread, and keep Sicily quiet.

I am proud to declare I have no predilections;
My heart is a sieve, where some scatter'd affections
Are just danc'd about for a moment or two,
And the *finer* they are, the more sure to run through:
Neither have I resentments, nor wish there should come ill
To mortal—except (now I think on't) Beau Br—mm—l,
Who threaten'd, last year, in a superfine passion,
To cut *me*, and bring the Old K—ng into fashion.
This is all I can lay to my conscience at present—
When such is my temper, so neutral, so pleasant,
So royally free from all troublesome feelings,
So little encumber'd by faith in my dealings,
(And that I'm consistent the world will allow,
What I was at Newmarket, the same I am now):
When such are my merits—(you know I hate cracking)—
I hope, like the vender of best patent blacking,
"To meet with the gen'rous and kind approbation
Of a candid, enlighten'd and liberal nation."

By the bye, ere I close this magnificent letter,
(No man, except Pole, could have writ you a better),
'Twould please me if those, whom I've humbug'd so long
With the notion (good men!) that I knew right from wrong,
Would a few of them join me—mind, only a few—
To let *too* much light on me never would do;
But even Grey's brightness shan't make me afraid,
While I've C—md—n and Eld—n to fly to for shade;
Nor will Holland's clear intellect do us much harm,
While there's W—stm—rel—nd near him to weaken the charm.
As for Moira's high spirit, if aught can subdue it,
Sure joining with H—rtf—rd and Y—rm—th will do it!
Between R—d—r and Wh—rt—n let Sheridan sit,
And the fogs will soon quench even Sheridan's wit;
And against all the pure public feeling that glows
Ev'n in Whitbread himself, we've a host in G—rge R—se!
So, in short, if they wish to have Places, they may,
And I'll thank you tell all these matters to Grey,
Who, I doubt not, will write (as there's no time to lose),
By the two-penny post, to tell Grenville the news.
And now, dearest Fred., (tho' I've no predilection,)
Believe me yours always, with truest affection.

P. S. A copy of this is to P—rc—l going—
Good Lord! how St. Stephens will ring with his crowing!

ANON.

* The antique shield of Martinus Scriblerus, which, upon scouring, turned out to be only an old Sconce.

† My favourite luncheon.

CURIOUS CORRESPONDENCE.

The following letters are extracted from the Bury Paper:—

"*TO THE EDITOR OF THE BURY PAPER.*

"SIR,—As Mr. Benjafield has been pleased to publish a part of one of the two letters which, under the directions of my brother Magistrates, I read to them at our last Quarter Sessions, I conceive it to be incumbent upon me to request you to insert in your next paper the whole of both those letters; of which, by the permission of Lord Moira and Captain Cooksedge, and at Mr. Benjafield's express desire, I sent him authenticated copies.

"*Fournham, Feb.* 21. "J. ORD."

"*London, Jan.* 16, 1812.

"A disagreeable circumstance lays me under the necessity of soliciting permission to trespass upon you with this letter.—Some time ago Mr. Benjafield (then perfectly unknown to me) applied to me, to ascertain the point whether or not he received an annuity from the Prince of Wales. He said he had been charged with having extorted an annuity from his Royal Highness, for the suppression of attacks which he was about to bring forward; an imputation which he negatived with the most earnest professions, advancing in proof of his denial of the assertion, that he never had any annuity from the Prince. I considered investigation of this matter to be involved in that engagement of anomalous services, which I, with others of the Council of his Royal Highness, had spontaneously entered into, when, to prevent the expence to the public of any

establishment for the Prince Regent during the year of restrictions, we desired that we might officiate as his State Household. I made due inquiry accordingly; but as the transaction to which this referred was of a date earlier than that at which I began to have any knowledge of the Prince's affairs, there was nothing to lead me to any other question than, whether Mr. Benjafield had at any time received an allowance or annuity from the Prince? The answer was, that no record or trace of such allowance or annuity appeared. I was naturally satisfied with this statement, because it was what I had expected, both from Mr. Benjafield's assertion to me, and from my having always supposed Weltje the purchaser of the shares in the *Morning Post* on a speculation of his own. On this ground I confidently furnished Mr. Benjafield with my testimony against the accusation under which he laboured. Subsequent informations have guided me to proof, that Mr. Benjafield had been receiving (and is still in the receipt of) an annuity, which is essentially, though not in absolute form, what he has been charged with having obtained. He receives from Mr. Tattersall an annuity, which is paid to the latter by the Commissioners for liquidating the Prince's debts. I have therefore written to Mr. Benjafield, to say that I must have back a testimonial, by which I unwittingly vouch for what is in substance not true; but as he told me that his object was to exhibit that testimonial to his brother Magistrates, and as I have reason to believe he has shewn it widely, it is incumbent on me, by this explanation, to prevent my name's contributing farther to a misunderstanding of the case.—That Mr. Benjafield's name was not on any schedule or list as a creditor of the Prince is indisputable. It is equally certain that the Prince did not know of any pecuniary transaction with Mr. Benjafield, the business with Weltje having clearly been managed at the time by persons indiscreetly officious, though at the Prince's expence. From these facts candour exacts the construction, that Mr. Benjafield has acted upon the presumption that the persons ostensibly bound to him were those with whom the transaction really rested. While I admit this, I cannot withhold my censure upon the manner in which I have become so unpleasantly implicated. I am entitled to say, that Mr. Benjafield's want of caution in making those assertions which unavoidably led to my error, without his having previously satisfied himself on circumstances involving obvious doubt, ought to give him serious regret.—I have the honour, Sir, to be, your very obedient and humble servant,

"MOIRA."

"*Rev. Dr. Ord, Chairman of the Sessions, Bury.*"

"*Bury St. Edmunds, Jan. 20, 1812.*

"REV. SIR,—Having received information that Lord Moira has addressed a letter to you in your official capacity as Chairman of the Sessions, for the purpose of recalling through a public channel a letter from Mr. Benjafield, which he had obtained from his Lordship, in order to rebut the assertion which I have made in the proceedings of the Chancery suit, with respect to the annuity which he enjoys being derived from a High Personage, and with the privity of Mr. Benjafield,—I feel it becomes me to state to yourself and the Bench, that in consequence of Mr. Benjafield's having obtained and shewn this letter to this town and the neighbourhood, as exculpating him from the charge, I held myself called upon more minutely to investigate and collect the evidence upon which I considered the circumstance to rest.—I began the inquiry by resorting to the executors of the late Mr. Tattersall, and their Solicitor (a channel to which Mr. Benjafield did not direct his Lordship, and yet apparently the most likely to decide the fact, of the annuity being merely the debt of Tattersall only, or of some other or higher personage), and from thence I carried it to those who were immediately concerned in the conduct of the transaction. In the course of this inquiry it resulted, *that in consequence of the paragraphs in the Morning Post, relative to a High Personage and a certain untitled Lady, Mr. Benjafield, who had the sole conduct of the paper, was threatened to be prosecuted; that finding he was not to be alarmed, it became necessary to buy him out; that he was accordingly bought out; and that Mr. Benjafield knew it was a transaction with a High Personage; and the terms having been considered as grossly exorbitant, such High Personage was particularly spoken to on the subject, but desired that they should be acceded to.*—That Mr. Benjafield has been lately negociating for the exchange of his annuity for a place under Government with the gentlemen who, on the part of such High Personage, gave a bond in the penalty of 10,000*l.* to Tattersall to indemnify him; that place had been offered to him, but not accepted: this fact alone carries conviction with it.—It was also ascertained from one of the Executors of the late Mr. Tattersall, and from his Solicitor, that upon being informed that, as executors, they must deduct the Property Tax, he said he should complain to a higher power.—The above is the general result of the inquiry which I have instituted: I will not trouble you with a further detail at the moment, but I reserve to myself the adoption of such farther publication of the affair, or of such measures respecting it, as circumstances may require.—I remain, Reverend Sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

"M. T. COOKSEDGE."

"*To the Rev. Dr. Ord, Chairman of the General Quarter Session for the Division of Bury St. Edmunds.*"

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Friday, March 6.

THE KING *v.* DANIEL ISAAC EATON.

This was an information filed against the defendant for publishing a blasphemous and profane libel on the Holy Scriptures, (entitled, "the Third Part of the Age of Reason, by Thomas Paine":)—to which he pleaded—*Not Guilty.*

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said, that he had felt it incumbent upon him to file this information for a libel so full of impiety and blasphemy, that he had hoped the British press would never have been disgraced by any such production. The Jury had been informed that the libel was against the Christian religion, and the Holy Author of it: and the Attorney-General knew not how to express in adequate terms, his horror of the person who dared to disseminate such doctrines; doctrines which denied the existence of that religion upon which we all depended, and to which we all looked for consolation. [Here the Attorney-General entered at length into the alleged libel, making comments, as he proceeded, upon what he denominated the guilt of the Publisher.] The following passages selected by the Attorney-General were then read:—

"They tell us that Jesus rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven. It is very easy to say so; a great lie is as easily told as a little one; but if he had done so, those would have been the only circumstances respecting him that would have differed from the common lot of man: and, consequently, the only case that would apply exclusively to him, as prophecy, would be some passage in the Old Testament that foretold such things of him. But there is not a passage in the Old Testament that speaks of a person who after being crucified, dead, and buried, should rise from the dead and ascend into heaven. Our prophecy-mongers supply the silence the Old Testament guards upon such things, by telling us of passages they call prophecies, and that falsely so, about Joseph's dreams, old cloths, broken bones, and such like trifling stuff.

"As to the New Testament, if it be brought and tried by that standard which, as Middleton wisely says, God has revealed to our senses, of his Almighty power and wisdom, in the creation and government of the visible universe, it will be found equally as false, paltry, and absurd, as the Old.

"Now, had the news of salvation by Jesus Christ been inscribed on the face of the sun and the moon, in characters that all nations would have understood, the whole earth had known it in twenty-four hours, and all nations would have believed it; whereas, though it is now almost two thousand years since, as they tell us, Christ came upon earth, not a twentieth part of the people

of the earth know any thing of it, and among those who do, the wiser part do not believe it.

"I have now, reader, gone through all the passages called Prophecies of Jesus Christ, and shewn there is no such thing.

"I have examined the story told of Jesus Christ, and compared the several circumstances of it with that revelation, which, as Middleton wisely says, God has made to us of his power and wisdom in the structure of the universe, and by which every thing ascribed to him is to be tried. The result is, that the story of Christ has not one trait, either in its character or in the means employed, that bears the least resemblance to the power and wisdom of God, as demonstrated in the creation of the universe. All the means are human means, slow, uncertain, and inadequate to the accomplishment of the end proposed, and, therefore, the whole is a fabulous invention, and undeserving of credit.

"The priests of the present day profess to believe it. They gain their living by it, and they exclaim against something they call infidelity; I will define what it is—He that believes in the story of Christ is an infidel to God.

"THOMAS PAINE."

Mr. EATON then read his defence, in which he was several times interrupted by Lord ELLENBOROUGH, who told him that he did not sit there to hear the Christian Religion reviled. The defendant was at last, however, permitted to proceed, when he continued to contest the validity of the writings of the Evangelists, and to quote the Fathers in their doubts of them, and their belief of the Apocrypha, and Evangelists now exploded. They looked upon Jesus Christ as a good and virtuous, but not a supernatural man; and Origen nearly lost his saintship by disbelieving his divinity. He contended that the book in question was fairly argumentative, and that the cause of truth would always serve real religion. If the Clergymen would be the first to find out the fallacy of the Scriptures, they would enjoy the whole merit of it, and might have their occupation and their salary still continued to them. As it was, one half of our Preachers were promoters of sleep, and the other half of fanaticism. He concluded his defence with hoping that he had fully convinced and satisfied both his Lordship and the Jury of the falsehood of the Scriptures.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL did not think it necessary to make any reply.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH observed, that considering he was addressing Gentlemen who had just been sworn on the Evangelists, the defendant had asked for much in asking them to believe that he had completely proved the invalidity of the writings of those Evangelists. His defence had been from beginning to end a tissue of opprobrium and defamatory reviling on the Books of the Old and New Testament. The Attorney-General had rightly stated the law as laid down by Lords Hale, Raymond, and Kenyon, that the Christian religion was the law of the land. The defendant had endeavoured, as far as his feeble efforts could prevail, to enforce the arguments used by the author of the publication; arguments whose blasphemous tendency was sufficiently manifest from the concluding sentence:—"He that believes in the story of Christ is an infidel to God."—The defendant had stated that the book was in free circulation in America, and that no punishment had been inflicted in consequence of such publication. It was competent to America, or any other independent state, to administer their laws as they pleased; but in this country the Christian religion was strongly fenced about by the laws of the land. Here, though the freest comment and inquiry were permitted, it could not be endured that the religion should be calumniated and abused. He should leave it to the Jury as Christian men sworn on the gospel of Christ, to say whether the present was not an atrocious libel on the Christian religion.

The Jury immediately found the defendant *guilty*. On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, the defendant was then committed.

ALLEN *v.* PHILLIPS.

This was an action brought by Miss Mary Allen, a daughter of the late Dr. Richard Allen, of the Borough, against Mr. Charles Phillips, who succeeded him in his business of a surgeon, &c. for a breach of promise of marriage. Whilst the Special Jury were being impannelled, the defendant made a proposition to compromise the suit, to which the agitated feelings of the young lady's friends induced them to consent; and a verdict was accordingly taken, by consent, for the Plaintiff.—Damages, 200*l*.

POLICE.

BOW-STREET.

On the night of the 23d ult., or early in the morning, the house of Mr. West, the President of the Royal Academy, in Newman-street, was broke open and robbed of various property. A very large chissel was left behind by the robbers. Pearkes and Salmon were applied to, and they ascertained that the house was broke open with the chissel, and that the robbers entered by the back premises. The chissel the officers traced to belong to a man who worked at a trunk-maker's, at the back of the premises, and who proved to be a soldier in the Guards.—The man was brought to this Office, but he proved satisfactorily that he was on duty in the Tower on the night of the robbery; and also that tools were stolen from his workshop on the night of the robbery.—He was therefore, of course, discharged.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

An accident happened to Earl St. Vincent, on Thursday se'nnight, when alone in the dining-room at Rochett's; a piece of live coal was thrown out from the grate upon the hearth-rug, which he attempted to pick up; but in the act of stooping, he lost his balance and fell forward, his head striking the middle spike of the upper bar of the grate received a wound, and profuse bleeding followed: the face, neck, and hands, were scorched and burnt; he quickly recovered himself; the wound was dressed, and he has been without any unpleasant symptom. As there was a very large fire, and the bars of the grate exceedingly heated, if he had been deprived of his senses, or lost his recollection for one moment, he must inevitably have perished in the flames.

One of the most daring robberies was committed at Reading, on Monday, that ever was heard of. The Judges entered the town for the purpose of holding the Assize, Mr. Serjeant Marshall officiated as Judge for Mr. Justice Lawrence. When coming out of church, in grand procession, the Serjeant Judge in his robes, was hustled and robbed of his gold watch and seals. We have often heard of robbing a church, but to rob a Judge at an Assize, is a new sign of the times.

DEATHS.

On the 21st of Aug. 1811, at Kedgerer, on the Hoogley River, Calcutta, of a fever brought on by a severe cold, Mr. Thomas Hay, son of William Hay, Esq. of Russell-square, and Midshipman of H. M. S. Galatea, aged 17. He was followed, says a Correspondent, to the grave by the Officers and ship's crew, to whom his amiable manners and distinguished gallantry, in their late severe action off Madagascar, had rendered him beloved; but more keenly regretted by his relations and friends, who were more intimately acquainted with his sweet and generous disposition.

At Colebrook Terrace, Islington, on Friday, the 29th ult. J. T. Allingham, author of several dramatic productions.

Printed and published by JOHN HUNT, at the EXAMINER Office, 15, Beaufort Buildings, Strand.—Price 8½*d*.